



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

***Raised Bill No. 333***

LCO No. 1488

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD WELFARE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) There is established a  
2       Children's Cabinet consisting of: The Commissioner of Children and  
3       Families, who shall serve as chairperson; a pediatrician, appointed by  
4       the majority leader of the House of Representatives, with the advice of  
5       the Connecticut chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; a  
6       public child welfare social worker, appointed by the minority leader of  
7       the House of Representatives, with the advice of the Connecticut  
8       chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; a representative  
9       of private children's agencies, appointed by the president pro tempore  
10      of the Senate, with the advice of the Connecticut Association of  
11      Nonprofit Providers; a representative of workforce development,  
12      appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; a representative of  
13      education, appointed by the Governor; a psychologist, appointed by  
14      the Connecticut Psychological Association; an attorney, appointed by  
15      the Connecticut Bar Association; a judge of the Family Division of the  
16      Superior Court, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; a  
17      representative of a children's advocacy organization, appointed by the

18 Commission on Children; and a representative of a children's health  
19 organization, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health. Each  
20 member of the advisory committee shall serve a five-year term. The  
21 Department of Children and Families shall provide support staff for  
22 the Children's Cabinet.

23 (b) On or before July 1, 2004, and biennially thereafter, the  
24 Children's Cabinet shall prepare a biennial state-wide policy plan for  
25 promoting the well-being of children through preventive services and  
26 submit the plan to the State Prevention Council established pursuant  
27 to section 2 of public act 01-121. The plan shall include, but need not be  
28 limited to:

29 (1) Services to children, including welfare and protection, education,  
30 physical and mental health, housing and employment and training;

31 (2) Outcome-based benchmarks for each service to measure the  
32 well-being of children and families in this state and the effectiveness of  
33 state prevention programs;

34 (3) Ways to best deliver integrated preventive services to children  
35 and their families based on their individual needs; and

36 (4) Recommendations on research-tested prevention strategies to  
37 implement the plan.

38 (c) The Children's Cabinet shall meet at least once a month and  
39 shall:

40 (1) Review the prevention plan that the State Prevention Council  
41 submits to the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section 3  
42 of public act 01-121;

43 (2) Identify indicators of risk for children including the areas of  
44 education, physical and mental health, child welfare and protection,  
45 juvenile justice and housing;

46       (3) Assess the effectiveness of state preventive programs against the  
47 benchmarks it establishes and make recommendations to the State  
48 Prevention Council on the expansion, revision or termination of  
49 programs;

50       (4) Meet at least twice a year with the State Prevention Council;

51       (5) Recommend training and education initiatives on prevention for  
52 professional development training programs, health systems and  
53 community services;

54       (6) Encourage the direct involvement of the public, consumers,  
55 parents, the business community and local government in partnership  
56 with state government to promote prevention; and

57       (7) Recommend prevention policies for the Department of Children  
58 and Families.

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|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows: |                        |
| Section 1                              | <i>October 1, 2002</i> |

***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish a Children's Cabinet.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*